

REMARKS

Claims 23-25 and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,550) in view of Ikeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,172). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 23 to define the common electrode substrate as having a thickness smaller than that of the first substrate, and that the thin film transistor substrate is provided on a side of a display screen, and respectfully traverse.

Claim 3 is amended to generally include the limitations of cancelled claims 24 and 30. Claim 23 features a second substrate having a thickness smaller than a thickness of a first substrate, and a thin film transistor substrate having the first substrate provided on a side of the display screen, that is, on the side of the screen as viewed by an observer. Support for this amendment can be found on page 34, lines 12-16 of Applicants' specification. Advantageously, when the TFT substrate is provided on the display screen side, resistance to pressure applied by operator fingers and the like can be improved in addition to achieving a lightweight liquid crystal display having high reliability. (See Applicants' specification pg. 33, lns. 9-11).

Kadota and Ikeda, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a liquid crystal display having the features now recited in amended claim 23, that is, the second substrate having a smaller thickness than the first substrate, and wherein the thin film transistor substrate is provided on a side of a display screen. As previously argued, there is no motivation to combine the relative substrate thicknesses of Ikeda with Kodata. Moreover,

neither reference discloses or suggests placing the TFT substrate on a side of the display screen. There is no explanation of where the display is with respect to the TFT substrate in Kodota, and in Ikeda, the TFT substrate is on the glass substrate 19 side, not the display side 26. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of independent claim 23 and its respective dependent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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